

THE LAST DAYS

WE ARE CONTINUING in this Part III our Bible study of what was prophesied to transpire in "the last days." Chapter 4 of Micah's prophecy has been our main text, and from there, we have been expounding similar scriptures.

Isaiah 13:6-14 is a passage very similar to Micah's prophecy. It begins: "*Howl ye: for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.*"

The "ye" of this verse does not refer to born-again believers, but to the wicked, to those who are involved in and who uphold the Babylonian systems which have developed within our nation. Thank God these systems are going out.

"*Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt.*" This is the very thing Christ said — that men's hearts would be failing them for fear. As a nation we have acted in fear, in both domestic and foreign affairs, instead of making decisions on what is right and scriptural.

"*And they shall be afraid: pangs*

and sorrow shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames."

If this is the day of the Lord, and if destruction is from Him, what is to be destroyed? Would God destroy all the Christians and everything that is good, scriptural and right? Or would He destroy the wicked? The answer is found in verse 9:

"*Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.*"

Again let me say that this is not the day of some Antichrist. The teaching that God has decreed some great Antichrist will take over the whole world (including our nation) is error — it is not scriptural. This is the day of the Lord. There is an indication here that the cleansing, purging, destruction, overturning, and dealing with the sinners will come to one particular land first and then

spread throughout the earth. We have every reason to believe that land is our land, the United States of America.

There is a sense in which all men are sinners and have "come short of the glory of God." But this passage deals with national sin and national righteousness. If God were going to destroy everyone who had ever sinned, He would destroy all of us and blot human life off the face of the earth. But that is not what the Scriptures teach. Destruction comes to the anti-Christ, anti-God, anti-Bible forces. Of them, this verse states, ". . . he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it."

Verse 10: "*For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.*"

All of the prophets and Christ Himself prophesied that as we come up to the end-time, God would manifest and demonstrate His reality, power, dominion and sovereignty through the use of the elements. I believe God already has begun to work in this realm. The latter part of verse 10 could be both symbolic and literal. If it is symbolic, it refers to civil authority, indicating that there will be a breakdown in government.

And we know from other scriptures that there will be literally very frightening, terrifying things happening in the heavens.

We read on from verse 11: "*And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.*" Isn't it about time for judgment like this after 2,000 years of defiance and rebellion against the God of the universe, against Christ, our Savior and Redeemer? Isn't 2,000 years enough?

"*I will make a man more precious than fine gold: even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.*" That simply means men whom God considers men. There are very few; but there are some.

"*Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: and they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land.*"

Give that some thought. When God divided the nations, we read in *Deuteronomy*, He set bounds for them and gave certain areas and territories of the earth to certain people. Here we read that when